

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2017

Colonel Robert Dixon  
Commander, Little Rock District  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 867  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867

Colonel Dixon:

I am deeply concerned with the proposed revisions to the Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). I share the Corps' objective of maintaining lake operations that are sustainable and environmentally sound. However, the overregulation of private citizens and businesses is unreasonable and has the potential to be economically detrimental to the Table Rock Lake community.

I have heard directly from numerous Missourians about how the proposed SMP could dramatically impact the daily operation of Table Rock Lake and impose on homeowners and local businesses new regulatory burdens without adequate justification for the additional costs involved. Such changes would impact residents' ability to enjoy their homes and could potentially undermine property values and developments surrounding the lake.

Particularly, the proposal to require the installation of alternative power sources, such as solar panels, on existing docks does not have a clear justification and would put an unnecessary financial burden to private dock owners. While other Army Corps projects have slowly begun to require alternative power be included on newly constructed docks, I am not aware of any other Corps operation requiring or proposing to require that existing docks be retrofitted with this technology. The Army Corps of Engineers should consider revising the Shoreline Management Plan to require alternative energy sources only on newly built private dock facilities and not mandate costly retrofits.

Additionally while I understand the Corps' concern about reducing shifting buoys I do not believe a complete removal of no wake buoys is justified by that concern. The proposed mandatory removal of private dock no-wake buoys would undoubtedly lead to excess speeding. Replacing buoys with posted signs on docks would be less visible and reduce safety for lake patrons in narrow or heavily populated areas of the lake.

Finally, I am concerned about ensuring accessibility of the lake, whether it be access to a dock or allowing boat access to the lake. As a long-standing advocate for Missouri's seniors, I am concerned that the Corps' changes to golf cart and all-terrain vehicle use will limit the ability of seniors to access the lake. While I understand the current proposal would require an ADA permit, I believe this is an unnecessary and bureaucratic burden on private landowners who may use these vehicles for carrying heavy and cumbersome equipment to their dock. The caps on boating access opportunities on the lake are also of concern and while the SMP increases the

access from the current cap I hope that any final access opportunity number is set so that continued growth and development opportunities are preserved.

In addition to my concerns with many of the details of the proposed SMP I am also concerned about the process by which it is being considered. Under Section 1185 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act (P.L. 114-322) the Corps has until December 16, 2018 to finalize the revision of the SMP. However this provision also required the Corps to establish an Oversight Committee comprised of representatives from Missouri, Arkansas, local economic authorizes, and users of the lake. Despite being statutorily required to comprise this Committee within 120 days of enactment the Corps has failed to do so and thus the Corps has been deprived of the advice of such a Committee as it developed the revised SMP proposal.

Therefore I believe that the Corps must convene the Table Rock Lake Oversight Committee as quickly as practicable to advise it on the proposed SMP. Additionally, I request that following such consultation with the Committee the Corps reissue a proposed SMP, incorporating feedback from the Committee and that received from the public. A second such notice and comment period plus the input of the Committee would allow for the level of public engagement envisioned by the WIIN Act.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you to address my concerns and those of all stakeholders surrounding the lake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent and the last name "McCaskill" following in a similar style.

Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator